To see if concrete has an acrylic sealer without using xylene, perform a water drop test and inspect the surface finish. Pour a small amount of water onto the concrete; if the water beads up and does not darken or soak into the surface within a few minutes, the concrete is sealed. Acrylic sealers also typically leave a visible, satin or high-gloss film on top of the concrete rather than penetrating invisibly. YouTube · Deco-Crete TV +2

Visual and Physical Signs

- **Surface Sheen:** Acrylic sealers form a protective plastic-like film, giving the concrete a satin, semi-gloss, or wet-look shine.
- **Water Droplet Test:** Puddled water stays on top as clear beads and does not turn the concrete a darker color.
- **Scrape Test:** Gently scratching an inconspicuous edge with a razor blade or coin may flake off a thin, clear, or tinted polymer micro-film layer. YouTube · Deco-Crete TV +4

Alternative Solvents and Tests

- **Denatured Alcohol or Acetone Test:** While xylene is the standard test for solvent-based acrylics, stronger alternative fast-acting solvents like acetone can also soften or make a solvent-based acrylic tacky when dabbed on a spot. YouTube · FoundationAr... +2
- **The Denatured Alcohol Check:** Water-based acrylics generally resist standard mild solvents, but a severe lack of reaction to simple household solvent tests combined with a plastic film surface points toward a water-based acrylic formulation.